(c) The completion cost of the above nine reactors is Rs. 29,542 crore.

Synthetic Rutile plant at Chavara

2514. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of Joint Venture proposal of IREL, NMDC and KSIDC for setting up a synthetic Rutile plant at Chavara, Kollam District;

(b) whether application of IREL for extension of mining lease for 20 years to ensure required raw material for the project has been approved by the Kerala Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether KMML has agreed for the tie-up with the project for using the Synthetic Rutile as feed stock for their TiO2 pigment expansion; and

(e) in not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has conducted a market survey through as Australian Company. The projected market potential for Synthetic Rutile being not very encouraging, NMDC is exploring the possibility of advance sales tie up before taking up test work and preparation of project report. Since the market demand for Synthetic Rutile is lacking, no further progress has been achieved.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government of Kerala is awaiting the project report on the setting up of the Joint Venture with NMDC, before taking a decision on extension of mining lease in favour of IREL in Blocks VI and VIII.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) KMML is pursuing its own programme.